United Nations E/CN.7/1999/4

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
11 January 1999

Original: English

Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Forty-second session
Vienna, 16-25 March 1999
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session

Implementation of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session

Note by the Secretariat

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Background	1	2
II.	Global Programme of Action	2-3	2
	A. Reporting on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action	4	2
	B. Structure of the report to the General Assembly on implementation of the Global Programme of Action	5-7	3
III.	Twentieth special session of the General Assembly to counter the world drug problem	8-17	3
	A. Reporting to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly	9	3
	B. Reporting on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in the light of action taken by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session	10-17	4
IV.	Conclusion	18	5

* E/CN.7/1999/1.

V.99-80115 (E)

I. Background

1. The General Assembly, at its seventeenth special session,[1] on 23 February 1990, adopted a Political Declaration and the Global Programme of Action on international cooperation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In its resolution 53/115 of 9 December 1998, the Assembly requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to elaborate guidelines in order to facilitate reporting by Governments on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and on progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008, as set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session,[2] on 10 June 1998. The adoption of resolution 53/115 followed the informal inter-sessional meeting of the Commission held at Vienna on 17 November 1998, which had finalized the provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Commission, and had considered that the implementation of the Global Programme of Action should be dealt with as a separate item on the agenda for that session. The Commission had further requested UNDCP to prepare a note indicating those provisions of the Global Programme of Action that are not covered by the action plans adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session, and that would still require separate reporting on their implementation under the Global Programme of Action. The present note by the Secretariat has been prepared in response to that request.

II. Global Programme of Action

2. The Global Programme of Action sets out a comprehensive list of measures and activities to be undertaken by States and United Nations entities in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The Assembly also proclaimed the period 1991 to 2000 the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, to be devoted to effective and sustained national, regional and international actions to promote the implementation of the Global Programme of Action (see para. 29 of the Political Declaration). The Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, adopted by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking,[3] was to be used as a basis for developing and translating into action, at the national, regional and international levels, balanced strategies that should include, in particular, specific aspects described in the substantive sections of the Global Programme of Action (see para. 8 of the Global Programme of Action).

3. In paragraph 93 of the Global Programme of Action, mention is made of the need to review and assess the United Nations structure for drug abuse control for the purpose of identifying alternative structural possibilities in order to enhance its efficiency. In pursuance of that goal, the Assembly, in its resolution 45/179 of 21 December 1990, requested the Secretary-General to create a single drug control programme to be called the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, and to integrate fully therein the structures and functions of the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Secretariat, the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. In its resolution 46/104 of 16 December 1991, the Assembly welcomed the establishment of UNDCP, which represented the first concrete step within the United Nations system towards achieving the goals of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse and implementing the Global Programme of Action.

A. Reporting on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action

4. As stated in the Global Programme of Action, paragraph 97, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations drug control bodies should continuously monitor progress on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and the Secretary-General should report annually to the General Assembly on all activities relating to the Global Programme of Action and the efforts of Governments. The General Assembly, in various resolutions since 1990, has called upon States to take all possible steps to promote and implement the mandates contained in the Global Programme of Action and requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and UNDCP to promote and continuously monitor progress in its implementation. The Assembly has also requested the Secretary-General to continue to report annually to it on all activities relating to the Global Programme of Action, including those of Governments.

B. Structure of the report to the General Assembly on implementation of the Global Programme of Action

5. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its thirty-seventh session, examined the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and adopted resolution 4 (XXXVII) of 20 April 1994 on monitoring of the implementation of the Global Programme of Action. In that resolution, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to include the following in future reports: (a) an introductory section containing an evaluation of progress in implementing the Global Programme of Action; (b) a summary of activities undertaken by States, the competent organs of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies in promoting and implementing the Global Programme of Action; and (c) an identification of the specific aspects of each section of the Global Programme of Action deemed by the Secretary-General to require greater attention by States, with a view to promoting their implementation.

6. The reports to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action are structured thematically along the lines of the Global Programme of Action. Each chapter or section corresponds to one of the topics dealt with in the Global Programme of Action under the following separate headings:

(a) Prevention and reduction of drug abuse with a view to elimination of the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

(b) Treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug addicts;

(c) Control of supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

(d) Suppression of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

(e) Measures to be taken against the effects of money derived from, used in or intended for use in illicit drug trafficking, illegal financial flows and illegal use of the banking system;

(f) Strengthening of judicial legal systems, including law enforcement;

(g) Measures to be taken against the diversion of arms and explosives and illicit traffic of vessels, aircraft and vehicles;

(h) Resources and structure.

7. By its resolution 4 (XXXVII), the Commission also authorized the use of a simplified questionnaire to be sent to Governments at the beginning of each year soliciting information on activities undertaken to implement the Global Programme of Action. In 1995, replies were received from 67 States in response to the questionnaire; 62 replies were received in 1996, 63 in 1997 and 54 in 1998. In preparing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, information submitted by Governments was complemented by information from other official sources. The report presented by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session is before the Commission in document A/53/382.

III. Twentieth special session of the General Assembly to counter the world drug problem

8. The General Assembly, at its twentieth special session to counter the world drug problem, adopted, on 10 June 1998, a Political Declaration (resolution S-20/2, annex) and the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction (resolution S-20/3, annex). It also adopted resolutions S-20/4 A to E on measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem, which covered the following: (a) the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and their Precursors; (b) the control of precursors; (c) measures to promote judicial cooperation; (d) countering money-laundering; and (e) the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development.

A. Reporting to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly

9. In paragraph 20 of the Political Declaration, the General Assembly called upon all States to report biennially to the Commission on their efforts to meet the goals and established targets for the years 2003 and 2008, agreed at the twentieth special session. The Assembly requested the Commission to analyse those reports in order to enhance the cooperative effort to combat the world drug problem.

B. Reporting on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in the light of action taken by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session

10. The analysis presented below is intended to provide information to the Commission on those provisions of the Global Programme of Action that are not covered by the action plans adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, and that would still require separate reporting on their implementation under the Global Programme of Action.

1. Demand reduction: measures covered under section II, subsections A and B, of the Global Programme of Action

11. The Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and the action plan for the implementation of the Declaration, currently being elaborated by Member States, integrate and extend the measures related to demand reduction covered in the Global Programme of Action. Those measures are found in the Global Programme of Action, section II, subsections A and B, entitled, respectively, "Prevention and reduction of drug abuse with a view to elimination of the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances" (paras. 9-29) and "Treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug addicts" (paras. 30-37). The reporting under those provisions of the Global Programme of Action could be subsumed under the reporting on the follow-up to the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and the related action plan being considered by the Commission under item 7 (a) of its agenda.

2. Eradication of illicit drug crops and alternative development; licit production, manufacture and supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (section II, subsection C, of the Global Programme of Action)

12. The Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development, adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, incorporates the related provisions of the Global Programme of Action. Those provisions are contained in section II, subsection C, of the Global Programme of Action, under the following headings: "Eradication and substitution of illicit production of narcotic drugs, and eradication of illicit processing of such drugs and of illicit production and diversion of psychotropic substances" (paras. 38-39); "Licit production, manufacture and supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances" (paras. 40-41); "Cooperation on the multilateral level" (paras. 42-44); and "Monitoring and control mechanisms" (paras. 45-50). The Commission has before it a report of the Executive Director on the follow-up to the Action Plan (E/CN.7/1999/3), prepared at the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 53/115. While the report focuses on current and planned activities, it encompasses action taken pursuant to treaty-based mandates, particularly article 14 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[4] as well as the Global Programme of Action.

13. With regard to the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the General Assembly, at its twentieth special session, adopted innovative measures covering the critical issues involved. They include the Action Plan against the Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and their Precursors[5] and measures to prevent the illicit manufacture, import, export, trafficking and distribution and diversion of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.[6] Furthermore, in paragraph 14 of the Political Declaration adopted at its twentieth special session, the General Assembly decided to devote particular attention to the measures for the control of precursors, and to establish 2008 as a target date for States to eliminate or significantly reduce the illicit manufacture, marketing and trafficking of psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs and the diversion of precursors. It may also be concluded that separate reporting on the measures related to the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and their precursors, is not warranted given the provisions adopted by the twentieth special session.

3. Suppression of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (section II, subsection D, of the Global Programme of Action)

14. The Global Programme of Action has served as an instrument to support the early entry into force of the 1988 Convention and adherence to the international drug control treaties (paras. 51-55). The measures to promote judicial cooperation adopted by the General Assembly at

its twentieth special session,[7] which cover topics such as other forms of cooperation and training, controlled delivery, illicit traffic by sea and complementary measures, including the use of new investigative techniques, provide a comprehensive framework for reporting on the provisions relating to the suppression of illicit traffic covered in paragraphs 56 to 61 of the Global Programme of Action.

4. Countering money-laundering (section II, subsection E, of the Global Programme of Action

15. The Global Programme of Action mobilized Member States in their efforts to counter money-laundering. The provisions contained in section II, subsection E, entitled "Measures to be taken against the effects of money derived from, used in or intended for use in illicit drug trafficking, illegal financial flows and illegal use of the banking system" (paras. 62-73), are essentially covered in the comprehensive measures for countering money-laundering adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. Furthermore, in the Political Declaration adopted at the twentieth special session, it was recommended that States that have not yet done so should adopt, by the year 2003, national money-laundering legislation in accordance with relevant provisions of the 1988 Convention.

5. Strengthening of judicial and legal systems, including law enforcement (section II, subsection F, of the Global Programme of Action)

16. Several of the provisions contained in paragraphs 74 to 85 of the Global Programme of Action have been incorporated into the ongoing work programme of UNDCP. With regard to those provisions whose implementation may require reporting by Member States, it would be more appropriate to do so within the framework of reporting under the measures to promote judicial cooperation adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session.

6. Measures to be taken against the diversion of arms and explosives and illicit traffic by vessels, aircraft and vehicles (section II, subsection G, of the Global Programme of Action)

17. Whereas the measures to promote judicial cooperation adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session also cover illicit traffic by sea, they do not include aircraft and vehicles used for the illicit transportation of drugs, dealt with in paragraphs 86 and 89 of the Global Programme of Action. Moreover, they cover neither the prevention of illicit and covert transfers of arms and explosives and their diversion to activities related to drug trafficking, nor measures to be taken by States to prevent the forging of links between drug trafficking and the illegal activities of mercenaries and subversive and terrorist activities, dealt with under the provisions of paragraphs 87 and 88 of the Global Programme of Action. Since those provisions are not covered by the measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, the Commission may wish to decide whether their implementation still needs to be reported under the Global Programme of Action.

IV. Conclusion

18. The Political Declaration, the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and the resolution on measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session broaden the scope of the provisions of the Global Programme of Action. The clear objectives and target dates will facilitate reporting by Member States and serve as benchmarks to gauge progress. There are few provisions contained in the Global Programme of Action—particularly those relating to the diversion of arms and explosives, the illicit traffic by aircraft and vehicles and the illegal activities of mercenaries and subversive or terrorist groups—that are not covered by measures adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session. The Commission is invited to examine whether those provisions still warrant separate reporting under the Global Programme of Action, on the understanding that implementation of the other provisions could be dealt with in reporting on the progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008, as set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session. In reviewing the guidelines for reporting on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and progress made in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008, the Commission is also invited to consider whether the questionnaire currently being used by Governments to report on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action should

be discontinued, amended or replaced by another reporting procedure. That issue will be addressed by the Commission under item 3 of its agenda.

Notes

[1] See resolution S-17/2, annex.

[2] See resolution S-20/2, annex.

[3] See *Report of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Vienna, 17-26 June 1987* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.I.18), chap. I, sect. A.

[4] *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

[5] See resolution S-20/4 A.

[6] See resolution S-20/4 B, sect. I.

[7] See resolution S-20/4 C.